

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An assay device for determining an analyte in an aqueous sample comprising:
 - (i) an elongate flow matrix ~~(6)~~ allowing lateral transport of fluid therethrough by capillary action, wherein said matrix comprises a liquid application zone ~~(3)~~ and downstream thereof, a detection zone ~~(8)~~ having an immobilized capture agent capable of directly or indirectly binding to said analyte,
 - (ii) a wicking member ~~(13)~~ placed at the downstream end of the flow matrix and having an upstream end and a downstream end, and
 - (iii) a time indicator ~~(14)~~ placed downstream of the detection zone ~~(8)~~ for indicating when liquid applied in the liquid application zone has reached the time indicator, wherein the time indicator comprises an indicator substance or substance combination which is capable of exhibiting a visible colour change when hydrated by the aqueous sample,

~~characterized in that~~ and wherein the time indicator ~~(14)~~ is arranged in contact with the wicking member ~~(13)~~ at a variable position between the upstream and downstream ends thereof, thereby permitting variation of the time elapsing from the application of ~~the liquid to~~ the liquid application zone until the indicator substance or substance combination changes colour.

2. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the time indicator substance comprises a single chemical compound capable of changing colour when absorbing water.

3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the time indicator (14) is ~~applied to~~ included on the wicking member (13).

4. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the assay device comprises a housing (1, 2) enclosing the flow matrix (6) and the wicking member (13), and ~~that~~ the time indicator (14) is ~~applied to~~ included on the inner side of the housing (1) at a transparent or translucent portion thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the time indicator includes a hygroscopic substance.

6. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the time indicator includes a filler substance.

7. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the time indicator comprises a substance mixture attached to the wicking member or the inner side of the housing by tape.

8. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the time indicator comprises an indicator substance or substance combination ~~applied~~

to on a support (14) which in turn is ~~applied to~~ included on the wicking member or on an inner side of ~~the~~ a housing included in the device.

9. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support (14) comprises a strip of solid material, ~~e.g. a strip of filter material~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of performing an assay for determining an analyte in a sample, ~~characterized in that~~ the method ~~comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing an assay device as defined in claim 1, wherein the time indicator is placed in a selected position between the upstream end and the downstream end of the wicking member adapted to the assay to be performed,
- (ii) flowing sample and assay liquid(s) through the flow matrix of the device such that they reach the detection zone in a predetermined sequence, and
- (iii) when the time indicator has changed colour indicating that a predetermined time has elapsed from the application of liquid to the liquid application zone, reading the result of the assay in the detection zone.

11. (New) The device according to claim 9, wherein the support comprises a strip of filter paper.